THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) and (b) The Government is aware of press reports, indicating formation of such a Committee.

(c) and (d) The NCERT has informed that some mistakes, mainly of editorial nature, in the NCERT's Social Science and History text books were pointed out. Necessary corrections, wherever considered appropriate have already been incorporated.

Universalisation of elementary education

394. SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have definite plans to achieve universalisation of elementary education and implement the provisions of the 93rd Amendment Act; and

(b) if so, what are the policy initiatives?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI ASHOK PRADHAN): (a) and (b) The Government has taken a number of steps to ensure Universalisation of Elementary Education. The Constitution (86th Amendment) Act, 2002 to make Elementary Education a Fundamental Right has been passed by the Parliament and the Act has also received the President's Assent on 12.12.2002. This is to be followed by Central Legislation with detailed mechanism to implement the Constitutional Amendment Act.

The Government has also launched the scheme of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SAS) in November, 2000 to pursue Universal Elementary Education in a mission mode.

The goals of SSA are as follows:—

- All 6—14 age children in school, Education Guarantee Centre, Alternate School, "Back to school' camp by 2003;
- All 6—14 age children complete five years of primary schooling by 2007;
- All 6—14 age children complete eight years of schooling by 2010;

- Focus on elementary Education of satisfactory quality with emphasis on education for life;
- Bridge all gender and social category gaps at primary stage by 2007 and at elementary education level by 2010;
- Universal retention by 2010.

Vacancies in IGNOU

395. SHRI ABANI ROY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that vacancies earmarked for SC, ST and OBC should be filled up within stipulated time;

(b) whether concerned authorities of Indira Gandhi National Open University, New Delhi had advertised some Group 'C' posts in the reserved category of SC, ST and OBC in Employment News, dated 9—15 February, 2002;

(c) if so, why selection formalities could not be completed as yet; and

(d) latest action contemplated in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (DR. VALLABHBHAI RAMJIBHAI KATHIRIA): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. According to the information furnished by the Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU), the University have advertised the posts of Stenographer, Junior-Assistant-cum Typist and Computer Operator Grade II for Scheduled Castes/Tribes and Other Backward Classes. The recruitment process is in progress.

Some delay took place in filling up vacancies as the IGNOU authorities were reassessing the needs for posts in view of Government of India instructions to reduce the number of posts in the university.

Fund for Vedic Study

396. SHRI JIBON ROY:
SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE:

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state: